



## Psychological distress following wildfires disaster in a rural part of Greece: A case-control population-based study

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### Abstract:

Psychological distress is common in the aftermath of a disaster. This study investigated psychological distress and morbidity in individuals who had experienced severe exposure to a wildfire disaster in a part of Greece. The study was a cross sectional case control of an adult population (18-65 years old). Face to face interviews were used in the collection of the data which were demographics, the type and number of losses and the Symptom Checklist 90-Revised for assessment of psychological symptoms. The results showed that those exposed to wildfires disaster scored significantly higher on the symptoms of somatization, depression, anxiety, hostility, phobic anxiety, and paranoia; had significantly more symptoms of psychopathology and were more distressed, compared to controls. Risk factors for potential psychiatric cases were those exposed to disaster; those who had lower education, and those who were widowed. It was concluded that wildfires may cause considerable psychological symptoms comparable to other disasters and there are reasons to create services to help and improve the mental health of those affected.

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### Resource Description

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event

**Extreme Weather Event:** Wildfires

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

#### Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Europe

**European Region/Country:** European Country

**Other European Country :** Greece

**Health Impact:** ☐

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Mental Health/Stress

**Mental Health Effect/Stress:** Mood Disorder, Schizophrenia/Delusional Disorder, Stress Disorder

**Resource Type:** ☐

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

**Timescale:** ☐

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified